

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-22 were pending herein, claims 1 and 15 being independent. By the amendment presented above, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 11 (including intermediate claims 9 and 10), and claim 15 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 19 (including intermediate claims 17 and 18). New claims 23 and 24 have been added. A paragraph of the specification has been amended to clarify certain descriptions therein. No new matter has been added.

In the pending Action, the Examiner objected to the specification because he believed that the reference to "photodetector 22" appearing at page 6, lines 28-29 of the specification as filed (paragraph [0020] as published) should be amended to "photodetector 23". Applicants respectfully disagree. The reference to "photodetector 22" in the referenced portion of the specification is correct. By the amendment presented above, however, applicants have amended the sentence in question to make explicit reference to the components mentioned therein, with reference designators added to remove any potential for ambiguity. Withdrawal of this objection is therefore also requested.

Claims 1-10, 14-18 and 22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over United States Patent No. 4,691,101 (Leonard) in view of German Patent No. 43 18 386 (Moll, *et al.*). Claims 11-13 and 19-21 have been objected to as depending from a rejected base claim, but the Examiner has indicated that such claims would be allowable if suitably re-written in independent form.

By the amendment presented above, applicants have amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 11, and the intervening dependent claims 9 and 10. Consequently, claim 1 as amended herein is allowable along with the claims dependent thereon. Likewise, claim 15 has been amended herein to include the limitations of claim 19, and the intervening dependent claims 17 and

18. Consequently, claim 15 as amended herein is allowable along with the claims dependent thereon.

In addition, applicants have added new claims 23 and 24. New claim 23 is identical to claim 1, as amended herein, except that the phrase "said light detection means comprising at least one set of three light detecting elements having light receiving areas being positioned in parallel to said raster" is changed to read "said light detection means comprising at least one set of three light detecting elements being positioned in a linear arrangement", to even more directly encompass the embodiment disclosed in the specification at page 3, lines 31 and 32. New claim 24 further refines the embodiment of claim 23, wherein the light detectors are arranged on a single substrate, which is expressly recited in the specification at page 3, line 32 - page 4, line 2. Thus, no new matter is added. Further, inasmuch as claim 23 is nearly identical to claim 1, as stated, it is respectfully submitted that claims 23 and 24 are allowable as well.

It is believed that no further fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

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